MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They have been doing that.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): How long since it was done?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is an export duty in Travancore on cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Do the Government think that by the abolition of export duty they could increase the price of cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Probably the producer may get an enhanced price.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware of a duty on agricultural products either in British India or in Ceylon?

MR. C. O MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): On some articles there are export duties.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is it for agricultural products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is export duty on Ceylon cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No export duty.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Pattanapuram cum Kunnattur*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*) may I know whether the figure of Rs. 105 is correct?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I got the figures from the Assistant Commissioner, Parur.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Pattanapuram cum Kunnattur*): For what month is it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether this export duty is a protective duty or a duty for revenue purposes?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is both a protective as well as a revenue duty.

Decrease in the yield of cocoanuts in the State.

159. *MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the present decrease in the yield of cocoanuts in the State; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have enquired what the decrease is due to?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*):

(*a*) There was during the last year a fall in the yield of cocoanuts in Travancore.

(*b*) This decrease was due mainly to the very long and severe drought of the previous years.

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MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): May I know whether the Government are aware that disease is responsible for fall in the yield of cocoanut?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes, to a slight extent.

The Agricultural Board.

160. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the Agricultural Board was formed in Travancore;

(*b*) the number of meetings it held;

(*c*) the sum of money so far expended in connection with its formation and meetings; and

(*d*) what is the nature of the work so far turned out by the Board?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*)

(*a*) In 1111 M. E.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) Rs. 938-1-4.

(*d*) The Board reviewed the work so far turned out by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in its various branches, and passed several resolutions calculated to enhance the usefulness of the Department.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know how many resolutions were passed at the last meeting of the Agricultural Board?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): About 25 resolutions.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether any one of those resolutions was carried into effect?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): They are now under the consideration of Government.

Salt Manufacture.

161. ***MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*): With reference to the statement on page 182 of the Administration Report of the Excise Department for 1110 that the average yield per acre in the Sri Sankara Allom is found to be 7125·75 maunds, while in the same locality the average yield per acre in the Puthallom is only 1912·46 maunds. Will the Government be pleased to explain the cause of the difference in the yield?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The difference in the yield in the Sri Sankara Allom and the Puthallom Factory during 1110, was due to the difference in the interest and earnestness on the part of the respective licensees.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know wherefrom brine is obtained for the Sri Sankara Allom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): From the Manakudi lake as well as from brine pits inside the factory.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): How does Puthallom get brine?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Puthallom gets from the Manakudi lake alone.

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